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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/557,103	11/15/2005	Carina Araullo McAdams	2003/01 US	5361

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EXAMINER	
PUTTLITZ, KARL J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1621	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/29/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

Kathy.L.Crew@invista.com
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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/557,103	MCADAMS, CARINA ARAULLO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KARL J. PUTTLITZ	1621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 June 2009*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7 and 26-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7 and 26-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/6/2009 has been entered.

The rejection under section 112, second paragraph is maintained in part, below:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7, 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is unclear what is reacted with the glycols or diols in the methy-p-toluate enriched stream. In this regard, the products of the reaction, and thus, the basis of the claimed composition, is unclear.

The claims still do not clarify which part of the mpt stream is reacted.

The 103 rejection over Hulsmann is maintained:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 4,112,240 to Hulsmann et al. (Hulsmann).

Hulsmann teaches the esterification of methyl benzoate with dipropylene glycol. The methyl benzoate is a product of a dimethylterepthalate production process by ghe oxidation of p-xylene or methyl-p-toluate, See columns 2-3.

The difference between the process covered by the rejected claims and the process disclosed by the references is that the reference fails to specifically teach esterification of methyl-p-toluate. However, those of ordinary skill would expect that methy-p-tolutate, as well as the other by-products recited in the rejected claims, would be present in the technical grade methyl benzoate starting reaction mixture, and thus esterified, by the process. Therefore esterification of methyl-p-toluate is well within the purview of the reference, and therefore, prima facie obvious.

Those physical properties set forth in the rejected claims are invariably possessed by the compositions of Hulsmann, see MPEP 2112.01 ("Where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a *prima facie* case of

either anticipation or obviousness has been established. *In re Best,* 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). "When the PTO shows a sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not." *In re Spada,* 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990) . . . "[p]roducts of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties." A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990)"). Applicant has not shown that the physical properties of the Hulmann product is any different than that of the claims.

Applicant has yet to establish that the transesterification product of Hulsmann is different than that of the claims, notwithstanding the process steps, including the amounts of methyl benzoate in the reactant stream, see MPEP 2113 (""[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)").

The following are new grounds of rejection:

Claims 1-5, 26 and 27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Nos. 6,184,278 to Ardent et al. (Ardent II) or Patent No. 2,585,448 to Emerson et al. (Emerson).

Ardent II discloses plasticizer compositions derived from diethylene or triethylene glycol and toluic acid, the products are given at column 2, lines 29+. The examiner notes that mentyl benzoate is not listed as a reagent. Nonetheless, the patent teaches the product plasticizer, notwithstanding the recited process steps, see MPEP 2113 (""[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)").

Similarly, Emerson teaches plasticizer compositions derived from diethylene or triethylene glycol and toluic acid, the products are given at column 1, lines 30+. The examiner notes that mentyl benzoate is not listed as a reagent. Nonetheless, the patent teaches the product plasticizer, notwithstanding the recited process steps, see MPEP 2113 (""[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is

unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)").

Those physical properties set forth in the rejected claims are invariably possessed by the compositions of Ardent II or Emerson, see MPEP 2112.01 ("Where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a *prima facie* case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established. *In re Best,* 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). "When the PTO shows a sound basis for believing that the products of the applicant and the prior art are the same, the applicant has the burden of showing that they are not." *In re Spada,* 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990) . . . "[p]roducts of identical chemical composition can not have mutually exclusive properties." A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore, if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 709, 15 USPQ2d 1655, 1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990)").

Claims 6, 7 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hulsmann or Ardent II or Emerson in view of GB947764 (GB 764).

The rejected claims cover those embodiments wherein the claimed compositions further comprise tall oil fatty acids, which is not explicitly disclosed by Hulsmann, Arendt or Emerson. However, for this proposition, the examiner joins GB 764, which discloses that glycol benzoate plasticizer compositions commonly comprise fatty acids, such as

soybean fatty acid derivatives, see CAS online citation 60:69197 [retrieved 2 September 2008] from STN; Columbus, OH, USA. Therefore, plasticizer compositions that comprise tall oil fatty acids are well within the purview of those of ordinary skill, and thus, prima facie obvious.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karl J. Puttlitz whose telephone number is (571) 272-0645. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Sullivan, can be reached at telephone number (571) 272-0779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Karl J. Puttlitz/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1621